GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:302
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
PEACE INITIATIVES IN WEST ASIA
Sajjan Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is aware of peace prospects that have increased considerably in West Asia in view of the victory of President Abbas in Palestine;

(b) If so, whether India has endeavoured for friendly initiatives between Israeli and Palestinian leaders for bringing peace there; and

(c) If so, the details of strategy chalked out for the said purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Government has been keeping the developments in the West Asia under constant review. Government considers the Sharm-el-Sheikh Summit of 8th February 2005 between the leaders of Israel and Palestine as a significant event that constitutes an important step in the resumption of the Israel-Palestine peace process.

(b) India supports and looks forward to further progress in the peace process, and is in regular contact with the Governments concerned.

(c) The Special Envoy for West Asia and the Middle East Peace Process, Ambassador C.R. Gharekhan, visited the region in the last week of February and held high-level consultations with the leaders of Palestine, Israel, Egypt and Jordan to assess the latest situation and explore ways on how India could contribute to the peace process.